

April 10, 1973

LB 604

CLERK: 21 ayes, 1 nay to raise the Call Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 604 (read).

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak, do you want to handle the committee amendments?

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, I'll defer that to Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: I think that Senator Dworak is going to defer to me. What the committee....

SENATOR DWORAK: The committee amendments are the bill, so I would like Senator Simon to....

PRESIDENT: I beg...the committee amendments are the bill? All right, then the Chair will recognize Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Very briefly Mr. President, we tried to take care of some of the objectionable sections. We struck the section dealing with the deposits, we put in a lot of clarifying language, basically what Senator Murphy offered and I guess I have nothing else. It is the white copy that I handed out about ten minutes ago. I move for the adoption of the committee amendments then.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body. I think that there are several points that we have to discuss before we take such action to advance the bill. I know that Senator Simon has some serious concerns about this bill or he wouldn't have brought it before us. Certainly there have been some evidences around the nation where possibly there has been some inhumane action on the part of certain utilities. As far as I know in the State of Nebraska the utilities of this state have never been so inhumane as they would allow certain people to go without an energy system that is needed by all. The need has not been demonstrated in this state as far as I am concerned. Everything that I have reviewed so far demonstrates that each company has a set of procedures and they have been fair. I would submit to you also that by putting them into further types of procedures that we are going to increase the cost for all of us. The existing statutes already provides for notice by mail. They tell me that they also telephone. Certainly there are some of those people who do not have a telephone.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator Koch. We are on the committee amendments. Okay.

SENATOR KOCH: I'm speaking to that as well Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT: Thank you Senator.

SENATOR KOCH: To me what we are attempting to do here, even with the amendment that what we have is possibly very little in terms of what the total objective was when Senator Simon set out with this piece of legislation. I'm familiar with People's Natural Gas, it is a service that serves my community and